



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

June 19, 2008

In Reply Refer To
Application 2145

Mr. Tommy Sides
Vice President/Safety Director
Salem Carriers, Inc.
175 Charlois Boulevard
Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27103

Dear Mr. Sides:

We are in receipt of your application for reasonable access for three routes. They are as follows:

Reasonable Access Request No. 2145-1: US 421 in Wilkesboro, Wilkes County from NC 16 to the Tennessee State Line in Watauga County.

Reasonable Access Request No. 2145-2: US 64 from I-40 in Morganton, Burke County to US 221 in Rutherfordton, Rutherford/McDowell Counties.

Reasonable Access Request No. 2145-3: US 321 from I-85 in Gastonia, Gaston County to I-40 in Hickory, Catawba County.

In February 2008, the North Carolina Attorney General's office issued an advisory ruling that grandfathered approximately 1,900 miles of North Carolina roads for access by 53 foot trailers. Your requested routes 2145-2 and 2145-3 are both routes that have been grandfathered. This ruling only allows 53 foot trailers to run legally on this roadway, and twin trailers are not included in this ruling.

With regards to request 2145-1, US 421 is currently a legal route for 53-foot trailers. There is however safety concerns with this route and it is currently undergoing an administrative review for further analysis and investigation. Based on the results of this study, the through movement of 53-foot trailers could be restricted or prohibited.

All weight limits that may exist on these routes must still be observed.

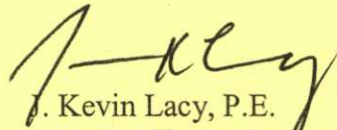
Mr. Tommy Sides

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Please let us know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



J. Kevin Lacy, P.E.
State Traffic Engineer

JKL:lma

cc: Arnold Lakey, Board of Transportation Member
Robert A. Collier, Jr., Board of Transportation Member
Alan Thornburg, Board of Transportation Member
Colonel William F. Clay, State Highway Patrol
Captain W. Mark Nichols, State Highway Patrol
1st Sgt. Hank C. Whitmire, State Highway Patrol
J. A. Hamrick, P.E., High Country & Foothills Regional Traffic Engineer
D. D. Galloway, P.E., Blue Ridge Mountains Regional Traffic Engineer

WATAUGA
2145-1

